

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 33 are presented for examination in the present application upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment.

Applicant submits herewith a replacement specification in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.125. Thus, the replacement specification includes both a marked-up version and a clean version attached hereto. No new matter has been added.

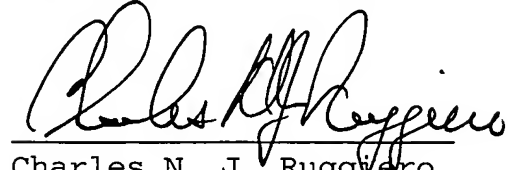
Claims 1 through 33 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. It is believed that these claim amendments merely make explicit what had been implicit in the claims and, thus, should not affect the scope of equivalents to which the claims are entitled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 12, 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

Charles N. J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

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